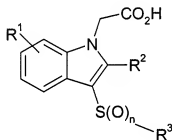


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

in which:

n represents 1 or 2;

R<sup>1</sup> is one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, OR<sup>4</sup>, SR<sup>4</sup>, SOR<sup>4</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>COR<sup>4</sup>, aryl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, the latter five groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, OR<sup>7</sup> and NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup>, S(O)<sub>x</sub>R<sup>7</sup> where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, halogen, CN, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup> or CONR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, COR<sup>4</sup> or C<sub>1-7</sub>alkyl, the latter group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR<sup>8</sup> and NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, S(O)<sub>x</sub>R<sup>7</sup> where x is 0, 1 or 2;

$R^3$  is aryl or a 5-6 membered aromatic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro,  $SO_2R^4$ , OH,  $OR^4$ ,  $SR^4$ ,  $SOR^4$ ,  $SO_2NR^5R^6$ ,  $CONR^5R^6$ ,  $NR^5R^6$ ,  $NR^9SO_2R^4$ ,  $NR^9CO_2R^4$ ,  $NR^9COR^4$ ,  $C_2-C_6$  alkenyl,  $C_2-C_6$  alkynyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms,  $OR^7$  and  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $S(O)_xR^7$  where x is 0, 1 or 2;

$R^4$  represents aryl, heteroaryl, or  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, heteroaryl,  $OR^{10}$  and  $NR^{11}R^{12}S(O)_xR^{13}$  (where x = 0, 1 or 2),  $CONR^{14}R^{15}$ ,  $NR^{14}COR^{15}$ ,  $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$ ,  $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$ , CN, nitro;

$R^5$  and  $R^6$  independently represent a hydrogen atom, a  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl group, or an aryl group, the latter two of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl,  $OR^{13}$  and  $NR^{14}R^{15}$ ,  $CONR^{14}R^{15}$ ,  $NR^{14}COR^{15}$ ,  $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$ ,  $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$ , CN, nitro;

or

$R^5$  and  $R^6$  together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O,  $S(O)_x$  where x is 0, 1 or 2,  $NR^{16}$ , and the ring itself is optionally substituted by  $C_1-C_3$  alkyl;

$R^7$  and  $R^{13}$  independently represent a  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl group, or an aryl or group all of which are optionally substituted by halogen atoms;

$R^8$  represents a hydrogen atom,  $C(O)R^9$ ,  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen atoms, or an aryl group, which also is optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms); or an aryl group, which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

each of  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{14}$ ,  $R^{15}$ , independently represents a hydrogen atom,  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, or an aryl group (all of which are optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms); and

$R^{16}$  is hydrogen,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $-C(O)C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C(O)YC_{1-4}$ alkyl, Y is O or  $NR^7$ .

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 in which n is 2.
3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which R<sup>1</sup> is halogen, nitrile, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>9</sup>COR<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>9</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, aryl, NR<sup>5</sup>R<sup>6</sup>.
4. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which the R<sup>1</sup> substituent(s) is/are in the 4- and/or 5- position.
5. (Previously presented) A compound according claim 1 in which R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl.
6. (Original) A compound according to claim 4 in which R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl substituted by halogen.
7. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 selected from:
  - 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
  - 5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
  - 6-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
  - 7-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
  - 5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
  - 5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
  - 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
  - 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-(ethylsulfonyl)-7-methoxy-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
  - 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
  - 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
  - 5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
  - 4-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
  - 3-[(4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
  - 3-[(3-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
  - 3-[(2-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
  - 3-[(3-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
  - 3-[(4-Cyanophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
  - 3-[(2-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2-ethylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-nitro-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
4-(Acetylamino)-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-(ethylamino)-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(2,6-Dichlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid  
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,  
3-[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid, and  
5-fluoro-2-methyl-3-[[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]sulfonyl]- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

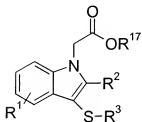
8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) A method of treating asthma or rhinitis, the method comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt as defined in claim 1.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) of claim 1 which comprises:

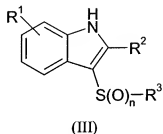
(a) oxidation of a compound of formula (II):



(II)

in which R<sup>17</sup> is hydrogen or alkyl and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are as defined in claim 1, or

(b) reaction of a compound of formula (III):



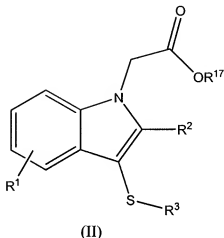
in which  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula (IV):



where  $R^{18}$  is an alkyl group and L is a leaving group in the presence of a base, and optionally thereafter (a) or (b) in any order:

- hydrolysing the ester group  $R^{17}$  or  $R^{18}$  to the corresponding acid
- removing any protecting group
- forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

15. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (II):



wherein:

$R^{17}$  is hydrogen or alkyl;

$R^1$  is one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro,  $SO_2R^4$ ,  $OR^4$ ,  $SR^4$ ,  $SOR^4$ ,  $SO_2NR^5R^6$ ,  $CONR^5R^6$ ,  $NR^5R^6$ ,  $NR^9SO_2R^4$ ,  $NR^9CO_2R^4$ , and  $NR^9COR^4$ , aryl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, the latter five groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen,  $OR^7$  and  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $S(O)_xR^7$  where x is 0, 1 or 2;

$R^2$  is hydrogen, halogen, CN,  $SO_2R^4$  or  $CONR^5R^6$ ,  $COR^4$  or C<sub>1-7</sub>alkyl, the latter group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms,  $OR^8$  and  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $S(O)_xR^7$  where x is 0, 1 or 2;

$R^3$  is aryl or a 5-6 membered aromatic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro,  $SO_2R^4$ , OH,  $OR^4$ ,  $SR^4$ ,  $SOR^4$ ,  $SO_2NR^5R^6$ ,  $CONR^5R^6$ ,  $NR^5R^6$ ,  $NR^9SO_2R^4$ ,  $NR^9CO_2R^4$ ,  $NR^9COR^4$ , C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms,  $OR^7$  and  $NR^8R^9$ ,  $S(O)_xR^7$  where x is 0, 1 or 2;

$R^4$  represents aryl, heteroaryl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, all of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, heteroaryl,  $OR^{10}$  and

$\text{NR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}\text{S}(\text{O})_x\text{R}^{13}$  (where  $x = 0, 1$  or  $2$ ),  $\text{CONR}^{14}\text{R}^{15}$ ,  $\text{NR}^{14}\text{COR}^{15}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{14}\text{R}^{15}$ ,  $\text{NR}^{14}\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{15}$ , CN, nitro;

$\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  independently represent a hydrogen atom, a  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkyl group, or an aryl group, the latter two of which are optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl,  $\text{OR}^{13}$  and  $\text{NR}^{14}\text{R}^{15}$ ,  $\text{CONR}^{14}\text{R}^{15}$ ,  $\text{NR}^{14}\text{COR}^{15}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{14}\text{R}^{15}$ ,  $\text{NR}^{14}\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{15}$ , CN, nitro;

or

$\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O,  $\text{S}(\text{O})_x$  where  $x$  is 0, 1 or 2,  $\text{NR}^{16}$ , and the ring itself optionally substituted by  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3$  alkyl;

$\text{R}^7$  and  $\text{R}^{13}$  independently represent a  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkyl group, or an aryl or group all of which are optionally substituted by halogen atoms;

$\text{R}^8$  represents a hydrogen atom,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen atoms, or an aryl group, which is optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms); an aryl group, which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

each of  $\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{R}^{11}$ ,  $\text{R}^{12}$ ,  $\text{R}^{14}$ ,  $\text{R}^{15}$ , independently represents a hydrogen atom,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkyl, or an aryl group (all of which are optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms); and

$\text{R}^{16}$  is hydrogen,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{YC}_{1-4}$ alkyl, Y is O or  $\text{NR}^7$ .

16. (New) A compound according to claim 15 in which the  $\text{R}^1$  substituent(s) is/are in the 4- and/or 5- position.

17. (New) A compound according claim 15 in which  $\text{R}^2$  is  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl.

18. (New) A compound according to claim 15 in which  $\text{R}^3$  is phenyl substituted by halogen.

19. (New) A compound according to claim 15 in which  $\text{R}^1$  is one or more substituents independently selected from  $\text{NR}^9\text{SO}_2\text{R}^4$  and  $\text{NR}^9\text{COR}^4$ .

20. (New) A compound according to claim 19 in which the  $R^1$  substituent(s) is/are in the 4- and/or 5- position.
21. (New) A compound according claim 19 in which  $R^2$  is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl.
22. (New) A compound according to claim 19 in which  $R^3$  is phenyl substituted by halogen.